

Message Text

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ACTION ORM-02

INFO OCT-01 EA-07 IO-13 ISO-00 DHA-02 INSE-00 CIAE-00

DODE-00 SY-05 L-03 H-02 INR-07 SSO-00 INRE-00 /042 W

----- 018663

O P 150558Z JUL 76

FM AMEMBASSY RANGOON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 1948

INFO AMCONSUL HONG KONG PRIORITY

USMISSION GENEVA PRIORITY

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: SREF

SUBJ: VIETNAMESE REFUGEES ON BURMESE SHIP

REF: STATE 174502

1. ADCM PASSED SUBSTANCE PARA 7 REFTEL TO U SEIN MAUNG, DIRECTOR, CONSULAR AFFAIRS DIVISION MOFA (ACTION OFFICE FOR THIS CASE). HE ALSO INFORMED HIM THAT GENEVA IS URGING UNHCR TO TAKE LEAD IN FINDING SOLUTION TO PROBLEM AND SUGGESTED GUB DO LIKEWISE. HE NOTED THAT CONGEN HONG KONG CONTINUING TO URGE HKG TO ALLOW THESE REFUGEES TO REMAIN IN HONG KONG AT LEAST UNTIL QUESTION OF THEIR ELIGIBILITY FOR RESETTLEMENT ELSEWHERE CAN BE CLARIFIED.

2. U SEIN MAUNG EXPRESSED APPRECIATION FOR OUR EFFORTS TO ASSIST AND SAID GUB HAS ALREADY BEEN IN TOUCH WITH UNHCR AND WOULD CONTINUE TO PRESS FOR HIS HELP. HOWEVER, HE ASKED WHY USG COULD NOT OFFER TEMPORARY REFUGE IN, SAY, GUAM ON SAME BASIS THAT WE ARE URGING HKG TO ALLOW TEMPORARY REFUGE. HE SAID HKG HAD NOW AGREED TO ALLOW REFUGEES TO ENTER HONG KONG AS "TRANSIT PASSENGERS" IF SOME OTHER COUNTRY WOULD AGREE TO MOVE THEM OUT PROMPTLY. HE OPINED THAT RECENT HISTORY MIGHT SUGGEST THA KEG HAS GREATER MORAL RESPONSIBILITY TO PROVIDE AT LEAST TEMPORARY

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REFUGE THAN DOES EITHER HKG OR GUB. HE REQUESTED THAT USG

AGREE TO PROVIDE SUCH TEMPORARY REFUGE, UNTIL PERMANENT RESETTLEMENT PROBLEMS CAN BE DECIDED, SO THAT REFUGEES CAN BE REMOVED FROM SHIP.

3. ADCM RESPONDED THAT IN USG VIEW, UNHCR SHOULD TAKE LEAD IN SOLVING THIS PROBLEM AND POINTED OUT THAT SHIP IS NOW OFF HONG KONG, NOT OFF ANY U.S. TERRITORY. HOWEVER, HE AGREED TO RELAY REQUEST TO DEPARTMENT.
OSBORN

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Message Attributes

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Draft Date: 15 JUL 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: MartinML
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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Executive Order: N/A
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